

5 said error detecting means stores mid-term results to said plural-ECC-block-division storing means, and for selecting ECC blocks to be processed; and

even-numbered error correction sub means, said odd-numbered error
correction sub means, said number-of-times control sub means, and said
DMA transfer instruction sub means contained in said system control
means that the error-corrected ECC blocks have been transmitted
downstream and new ECC blocks to be processed have been stored in said
plural-ECC-block-division buffer memory, and further notifying these same
sub means contained in said system control means of the ECC blocks which
are in process therein.

20 is performed in parallel for data in a plurality of ECC blocks each having a
structure where a plurality of error correcting code words each comprising
a data unit and a parity unit are arranged in vertical direction and
horizontal direction so as to repeat error correction a plurality of number of
times, and where predetermined data composed of a predetermined
25 number of code words in the vertical direction or the horizontal direction

(data in the horizontal direction are referred to as sector) as a unit are subjected to the error correction, wherein

said buffer memory is a plural-ECC-block-division buffer memory corresponding to a plurality of ECC blocks to be processed in parallel;

5 said storing means for storing mid-term results of an error detecting process generated by said error detecting means is an ECC-block-division storing means for storing said plurality of ECC blocks on a block-by-block basis;

said system control means comprises:

10 a means-basis ECC block pipeline processing notification sub means for transmitting ECC blocks which have been subjected to error correction downstream; for storing ECC blocks to be processed next to said plural-ECC-block-division buffer memory; and for making the storage known to said bus control means, said syndrome calculating means, said
15 error detecting means, and said error correcting means;

a means-basis ECC block recognition sub means for recognizing a data transfer from said bus control means to said syndrome calculating means, to said error detecting means, and to said error correcting means for error detection and error correction; for recognizing the error correction
20 done by said error correcting means; for recognizing writing of error-corrected data to said plural-ECC-block-division buffer memory done by said bus control means; for recognizing an ECC block in process when said error detecting means stores mid-term results to said plural-ECC-block-division storing means, and for selecting ECC blocks to
25 be processed; and

an ECC block notification sub means in sub means-basis pipeline processing for notifying said first error detecting sub means, said even-numbered error correction sub means, said odd-numbered error correction sub means, said number-of-times control sub means, and said DMA transfer instruction sub means contained in said system control means that the error-corrected ECC blocks have been transmitted downstream and new ECC blocks to be processed have been stored in said plural-ECC-block-division buffer memory, and further notifying these same sub means contained in said system control means of the ECC blocks which are in process therein.

16. The error correction device of claim 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, or 8, wherein error correction is performed in parallel for data in a plurality of ECC blocks each having a structure where a plurality of error correcting code words each comprising a data unit and a parity unit are arranged in vertical direction and horizontal direction so as to repeat error correction a plurality of number of times, and where predetermined data composed of a predetermined number of code words in the vertical direction or the horizontal direction (data in the horizontal direction are referred to as sector) as a unit are subjected to the error correction;

said buffer memory is an ECC-block-basis buffer memory for storing, on a block-by-block basis, ECC blocks to be processed in parallel;

said storing means for storing mid-term results of an error detecting process generated by said error detecting means is an ECC-block-and-code word-division storing means for storing ECC blocks in process on a